

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 283

To express the sense of the Senate concerning creation of a new position
in the White House as Senior Advisor on Religious Persecution.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 1996

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. FAIRCLOTH)
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee
on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate concerning creation of
a new position in the White House as Senior Advisor
on Religious Persecution.

1 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

2 (1) Americans are increasingly concerned about
3 anti-Christian persecution overseas, including rape,
4 torture, enslavement, imprisonment, killings, mutila-
5 tions, discrimination, and mistreatment of Chris-
6 tians, and the fact that far too many foreign govern-
7 ments systematically deny their Christian citizens re-
8 ligious liberty;

1 (2) reports indicate that the Government of
2 Sudan is currently involved in the enslavement of
3 the Christian populations of southern Sudan. Today
4 in Sudan, a human being can be bought for as little
5 as fifteen dollars. It has been estimated that in the
6 last six years, more than 30,000 children have been
7 taken from their homes, forcibly interned in “cul-
8 tural cleansing camps,” forced to accept Islam and
9 then moved to the front lines of Sudan’s civil war;

10 (3) in China, there are reports of the imprison-
11 ment and detention of many Chinese Christians
12 under a 1994 law which restricts religious freedom.
13 It has been reported that in 1992, Protestant leader
14 Zheng Yunsu was arrested and sentenced to twelve
15 years in jail simply for practicing his religion. Addi-
16 tionally, between October 1994 and June 1995,
17 more than 200 Christians were apparently detained
18 in the Henan province. One of those arrested, Ren
19 Ping, was sentenced, without trial, to three years of
20 reeducation through labor. According to Amnesty
21 International, more than thirty Chinese Catholics in
22 Jiangzi province were arrested and severely beaten
23 while celebrating Easter Mass earlier this year;

24 (4) in the Muslim-controlled Oromo region of
25 Ethiopia, reports indicate that in 1994, officials

1 raided the area's largest Christian Church and ar-
 2 rested most of its congregants. Many of those ar-
 3 rested died while in prison. The leader of the con-
 4 gregation was tortured and his eyes were plucked
 5 out;

6 (5) in several Islamic countries conversion to
 7 Christianity from Islam is a crime punishable by
 8 death;

9 (6) it has been reported that Christians have
 10 been effectively excluded from the political process in
 11 many countries. In Pakistan, for example, Christians
 12 can vote only for token representatives to the Na-
 13 tional Assembly;

14 (7) there is no Senior Advisor on religious per-
 15 secution in the White House to ensure that anti-
 16 Christian persecution overseas is given top priority
 17 by the White House and to coordinate efforts to
 18 combat such persecution; and

19 (8) the President had committed, in January
 20 1996, to appoint a White House Senior Advisor on
 21 religious persecution, but has yet to do so.

22 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
 23 Senate that the President should proceed forward as expe-

- 1 ditiously as possible by appointing a White House Senior
- 2 Advisor on religious persecution.

